

FY14 Oregon Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

Applicant Webinar

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1. Provide background of the program
2. Discuss Eligibility; who can apply, participants, required match funds
3. Application Categories and what is in the application packet
4. Provide guidance on how to develop your budget
5. Evaluation Process
6. Give you an idea what makes a successful and not so successful proposal

AGENDA

Proposals must be submitted in grants.gov or received in the NRCS Oregon State Office by 4:00 p.m., Pacific Standard Time (PST) on Friday, May 16, 2014.

USDA-NRCS

Conservation Innovation Grants

1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 900,
Portland Oregon 97232.

Proposal Due date

The fiscal year 2014 Announcement for Program Funding (APF) for The State CIG was published on March 21, 2014.

The APF is available at:

www.grants.gov and

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/programs/?cid=stelprdb1243773>

Funding Opportunity

CIIG was re-authorized as part of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) under the Section 2209 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

CIIG Background

CIIG is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production.

CIIG Background

- Non-governmental organizations
- Federally-recognized Indian tribes
- Institution of higher education
- Non profits
- Individuals

Applicant Eligibility

Applications are accepted from all 50 States, the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands), and the Pacific Islands Area (Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands). However, projects must be in Oregon.

Project Eligibility

To be eligible for CIG, projects **MUST** involve producers who meet the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) eligibility requirements.

Participating producers are not required to have an EQIP contract.

Eligibility information:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip>

Project Eligibility

Technologies and approaches that are eligible for funding in a project's geographic area through EQIP are ineligible for CIG funding except where the use of those technologies and approaches demonstrates clear innovation.

Project Eligibility

State CIG Matching Funds

Selected applicants may receive CIG grants for up to 50 percent of the total project cost not to exceed \$75,000.

CIG recipients must match the USDA funds awarded on a dollar-for-dollar basis from non-Federal sources with cash and in-kind contributions.

Project Eligibility

State CIG Matching Funds

Of the applicant's required match, the contribution from non-federal cash sources must be at least 50 percent of the Federal request; the remainder may come from in-kind contributions.

Project Eligibility

EXAMPLE

Total Project Cost: \$150,000

- CIG Federal Contribution: \$75,000
- Applicant's Contribution: \$75,000
 - ✓ Cash: \$37,500
 - ✓ In-kind: \$37,500

Project Eligibility

An exception regarding matching funds is made for applicants or participants that are Beginning Farmers or Ranchers, Limited Resource Farmer, or Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers, or community-based organizations comprised of or representing these entities.

Applicant's contribution from non-federal cash sources must be at least 25 percent of the Federal request; the remainder may come from in-kind contributions.

Project Eligibility

Example

Total Project Cost: \$150,000

- CIG Contribution: \$75,000
- Applicant's Contribution: \$75,000
 - ✓ Cash: \$18,750
 - ✓ In-kind: \$56,250

Project Eligibility

Types of cash match?

In kind services?

Indirect cost?

Matching funds

EQIP Payment Limitation and Duplicate Payments

Section 2209 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 imposes a \$450,000 limitation for all cost-share or incentive payments disbursed to individuals or entities under an EQIP contract between fiscal years 2014 and 2018.

Payments to participants



Questions ?

Application forms can be obtained at:

www.grants.gov OR

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/programs/?cid=stelprdb1243773>

Proposal Submission

Application Package Checklist

SF 424a Application Cover Sheet

DUNS number and SAM Registration

SF424a Budget Information Non-Construction Programs

SF424B Assurances-Non Construction Programs

Executive summary (2 pages max.)

Project description (7 pages max.)

Detail budget narrative (4 pages max.)

Declaration of beginning farmer or rancher

Declaration of EQIP eligible producers

Proposal Submission

State Resource Concern subcategories:

Energy

Air Quality and Atmospheric Change

Water Quality

Water Quantity

Plant Health/Vigor

Soil Quality

Wildlife Habitat

Proposal Submission

EXAMPLE

Soil Quality Subcategory

The objective of this subcategory is to implement new technologies, methods or market-based approaches to maintain, restore, or enhance soil resources associated with agricultural and forest land uses while sustaining productivity.

Possible subtopics include:

- Development of efficient technologies for producing and utilizing biochar to enhance soil quality, retain plant nutrients on site, sequester carbon to mitigate climate change, and produce bioenergy as a byproduct;
- Technologies and methods (e.g. carbon fractions, enzymes, other) for early prediction of soil quality degradation;
- Development of optimal species mixes, seeding rates and seeding methods (e.g. inter-seeding, inter-cropping, frost-seeding) to enhance cover crop establishment/survival and increase soil organic matter on various soil types and climate conditions;

- Project Background
- Project Objectives
- Project Methods
- Location and Size of Project or Project Area
- EQIP Eligible Participants
- Project Action Plan and Timeline
- Project Management
- Project Deliverables/Products
- Benefits and Transferability
- Project Evaluation
- Environmental and Social Impacts

Proposal Submission

Budget Information

Proposal Submission

Other Item you should know.....

Unauthorized costs:

Patents and Inventions:

Regulation provides that small businesses and commercial organizations normally may retain the principal worldwide patent rights to any invention developed with USDA support.

USDA receives a royalty-free license for Federal Government use, reserves the right to require the patentee to license others in certain circumstances, and requires that anyone exclusively licensed to sell the invention in the United States must normally manufacture it domestically.

Declaration of Previous CIG Involvement

Identify any National or State CIG's you have had or currently have been awarded

Proposal Submission

- ✓ Hard copies must be accompanied by a electronic copy and be received at the NRCS State office by 4:00PM (PST) on Friday May 16, 2014.
- ✓ Applications submitted via facsimile will not be accepted
- ✓ Electronically through www.grants.gov

Proposal Submission



Questions ?

Priority Considerations:

- studied sufficiently to indicate a good probability for success;
- Demonstrates, tests, evaluates, and verifies environmental (soil, water, air, plants, and animal) effectiveness, utility, affordability, and usability in the field;
- improve performance and encourage adoption;
- Introduces technology from another geographic area or agricultural sector;

Review Process

Proposal Evaluation Process

Eligible applications will be evaluated on a 3 tiered review process:

Basin Review - local adaptation and integration to NRCS conservation implementation strategies

Technical Review - technical feasibility and application of the innovation

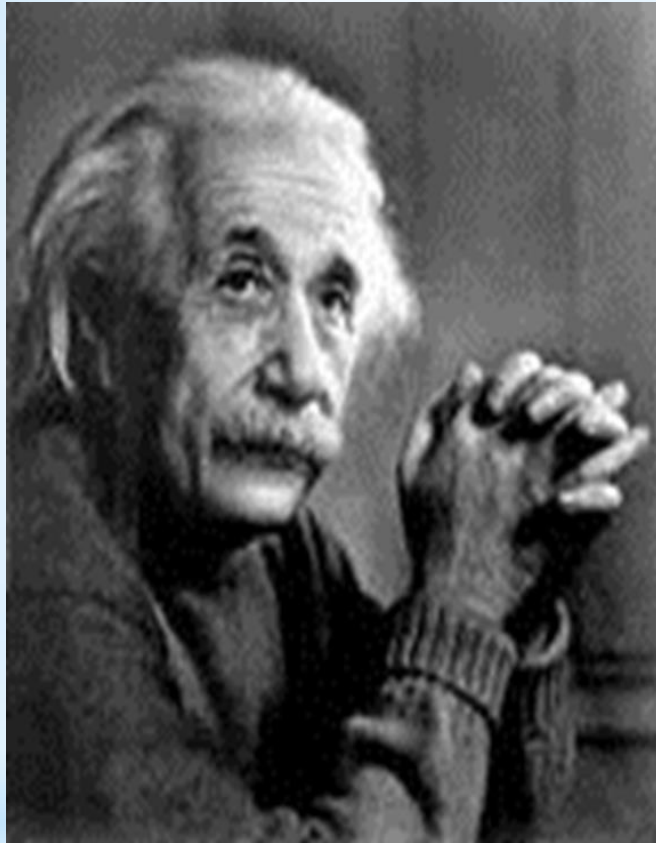
Executive Review - integration and value to NRCS Oregon's strategic approach

(Section V. A of the APF)

Review Process

Transferability

- Potential for NRCS Oregon to successfully use the innovative approach or methods. (technical standards, technical notes, guide sheets, handbooks, software, etc.)
- Potential for producers and land managers to use the innovative technology or methods
- Potential to transfer the approach or technology to other parts of Oregon.



Questions ?

To view projects funded by CIG go to NRCS Oregon Website:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/programs/?cid=nrcs142p2_044081

- ✓ Rain harvest catchment system
- ✓ Climate Friendly Nurseries
- ✓ Metrics for Three Oregon Priority Habitats
- ✓ Integrating SWCD Farm Planning and Credit Calculation

Successful Applications

- ✓ Research projects
- ✓ Does not involve EQIP eligible producers
- ✓ Technology is adopted through EQIP
- ✓ 50/50 or applicants cash match not met
- ✓ Workshops
- ✓ Infrastructure for new or established business
- ✓ Land acquisition
- ✓ Proposal already funded under the National CIG
- ✓ Incorporation of seed varieties
- ✓ Demonstration projects on lands owned by a federal agency

Unsuccessful Applications

Proposals due
May 16, 2014 by 4:00PM

USDA-NRCS
Conservation Innovation Grants
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 900,
Portland Oregon 97232.

submit application electronically, visit
www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp

For more information visit:

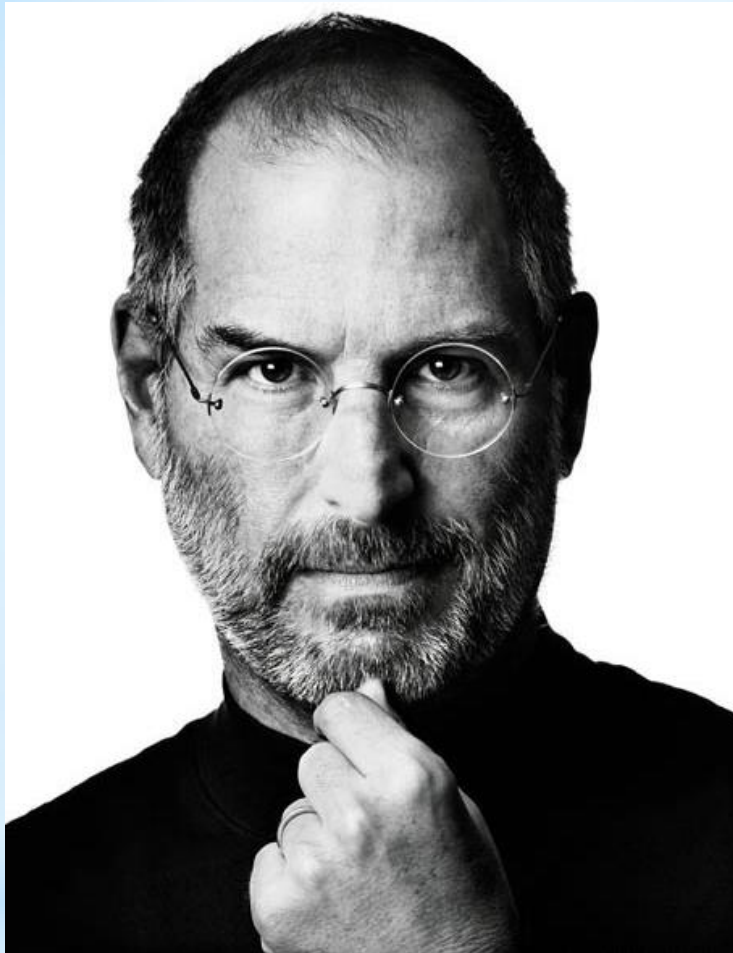
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Questions ?

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